

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 00051 061654Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: PFOR TS AO

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE AS INDICATOR OF GOT POSITION
ON ANGOLA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. TUNISIA'S "GUIDED" PRESS
CONTINUES TO COVER ANGOLA AS SITUATION INWHICH AFRICANS
MUST STICK TOGETHER TO END FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND
BRING WARRING ANGOLAN PARTIES TOGETHER. THIS PRESS
USUALLY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AMONG VARIOUS FOREIGN
INTERVENORS, SEEING NO VIRTUE IN ANY OF THEM.

2. DIALOGUE, THE RULING PARTY'S WEEKLY, SAYS JANUARY 5
THAT OAU SUMMIT MEETING MUST TAKE SUCH A MODERATE
POSITION AS TO PERMIT DIALOGUE AMONG ANGOLAN PARTIES.
ALL OF AFRICA MUST DO SO LEST THE SUMMIT LEAD TO
"SYSTEMATIC SPLIT" OF AFRICA OVER THE ANGOLA PROBLEM.

3. PARTY'S DAILY FRENCH PAPER L'ACTION JANUARY 6 FRONT-
PAGES SUMMARY OF FORD'S REMARKS ON ANGOLA AT ST. LOUIS
AND ON NBC/TV. PAPER EDITORIALIZES THAT, WITH AMERICAN/
SOVIET CONFRONTATION IN ANGOLA SEEMING TO LEAD TOWARD
A VIETNAM-TYPE SITUATION, AFRICANS FACE A CHOICE WHICH
DOES NOT CONSIST ON RECOGNIZING ONE GOVERNMENT ANY
MORE THAN ANOTHER, "SINCE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION
REMAINS, FROMALL EVIDENCE, THE ONLY ROAD TO SALVATION...

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 00051 061654Z

THOSE WHO HAVE ENCOURAGED FOREIGN INTERVENTION...

BEAR A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE HISTORY." AFRICANS SHOULD IN TOTAL SOLIDARITY DRAW THE RIGHT LESSON, WHICH IS THAT ESCALATION MUST BE STOPPED, THE CONFLICT DEFUSED, AND THE Warring parties presented with a "SAVE ANGOLA" PLAN CONTAINING THE BASES OF TRUE RECONCILIATION. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS "DELIVERING THE ANGOLANS, TIED HAND AND FOOT, TO THE FOREIGN POWERS WHOSE APPETITES, ALAS, ARE EQUALLED ONLY BY THEIR WILL TO DOMINATE."

4. LA PRESSE JANUARY 6 SAYS FORD AND BREJNEV HAVE APPARENTLY FOR THEIR OWN DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, RENOUNCED A POLICY OF WARFARE IN ANGOLA TO ENCOURAGE A THREE-WAY COMPROMISE THERE.

5. LE TEMPS, INDEPENDENT, IS LESS BALANCED IN ITS JANUARY 3 EDITORIAL, REFERRING TO GREAT POWERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT AS URGING EACH SIDE TO LIQUIDATE THE OTHER, BUT MENTIONING ONLY AMERICA AND SOUTH AFRICA BY NAME. IT TAKES AS FACT THAT USG HAS SENT 300 MEN TO ANGOLA, AND RIDICULES VORSTER'S PRESUMING TO SPEAK FOR SOUTH AFRICA AS "DEFENDER OF THE FREE WORLD." EDITORIAL ENDS, HOWEVER, WITH SUGGESTING THAT MOST REASONABLE COURSE WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR ANGOLANS TO SHUN FOREIGN HELP AND UNITE IN A SOLID FRONT AGAINST MANEUVERS OF THE POWERS, FOR THE INTEGRITY OF AFRICA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT GOT HAS NOT "GUIDED" TUNIS PRESS ON THE ISSUE BEYOND BASIC GOT PUBLIC POLICY THAT ANGOLA IS AN AFRICAN PROBLEM AND FOREIGN INTERVENTION IS BAD. PRESS GIVES NO HINT OF GOT PLANS TO ATTEND OR AVOID ADDIS ABABA SUMMIT. KING

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